

MONTHLY NOTES
OF THE
Library Association
of the United Kingdom.

AT the Meeting on Friday, July 2, a paper will be read by Mr. W. E. A. AXON (Manchester), entitled "The Poetry of the Bibliomania."

MEMBERS are begged to attend the Committee Meetings held on the third Friday of each month, as the Annual Meeting is now approaching. Among the matters to be discussed by the Committee on Title Entries at the next meeting (June 18) will be the subject of cross-references.

JUNE MONTHLY MEETING.

THE eighth Monthly Meeting of the third year of the Association was held at the London Institution on Friday, June 4, 1880, at 8 p.m., Professor W. S. JEVONS in the chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, Messrs. C. H. WADE, Jun., and C. A. V. CONYBEARE were elected members, having been duly proposed at the May Monthly Meeting. The Chairman then called on Mr. CORNELIUS WALFORD to read his paper entitled:

BOOKS I HAVE SEEN; BOOKS I HAVE NOT SEEN; BOOKS I SHOULD LIKE-
TO SEE; BOOKS I NEVER EXPECT TO SEE.

Mr. WALFORD said: Some few years since, when establishing a system of boxes for literary gatherings, I allotted one to "Books, curious and rare," and in a moment of pedantic reverie, scribbled inside its lid the words which constitute the title of the present paper. From time to time I deposited in it memoranda of books and tracts, to a very large extent clippings from second-hand book catalogues. I had never made any examination of the contents of this box, and probably should not have done so for a long period, but from the fact of receiving an invitation to read a paper. In my perplexity for a subject ready to hand, I turned to the said box, and propose to lay before you some of its contents—poor as I fear they will be found.

It will be a foregone conclusion that a collection of odds and ends thus gathered together, mainly because they admitted of no more scientific arrangement, constitute a species of literary scavenging from which little can be hoped. Pressed with professional engagements, I must make the best of the task before me, claiming all requisite indulgence.

I need hardly say here that the clippings from catalogues were only preserved as indications of the existence of the publications to which they are supposed to relate. They were never designed to be regarded as conclusive, but they constitute very fair *prima facie* evidence upon which to found further enquiry. In the absence of anything even approaching to a general catalogue of English literature, these miscellaneous records occasionally throw light where otherwise all had been darkness. In this sense I speak with thankfulness of them. If I were to say that misprints, unscientific abridgments of titles, and slips as to authorship, were never found in these catalogues, I fear I should not secure absolute credence. I will, therefore, make no assertion of the kind. I might accomplish the task before me by the construction of four several lists, corresponding with the divisions of my title, from the contents of the box; but such a mode of proceeding would be defective in many respects, more particularly as regards the books I have seen, for of these my memory, rather than my box, contains the record. There is yet another difficulty. The scene is changing all the time; every book or tract which falls into the category of those I have seen, lessens in some degree the lists of each of the other classes; and here, perhaps, I ought to state, by way of avoiding confusion, that I only speak here after the manner of a special collector in certain walks of literature, and a lover of odds and ends in general. To apply any such fancied classification as that now assumed to books in general would be out of the question, the more so that I have seen nearly all the great libraries of Europe and America. In many of the more important libraries the out-of-the-way things do not seem to exist; they have probably been accounted as trash, and made away with accordingly; or if they do exist, they are not brought into the catalogues. I will illustrate more in detail my meaning about the transition from class to class by the following narration, the main incidents of which are of very recent occurrence.

The first book set up in type at the printing-office of the illustrious Benjamin Franklin, in Philadelphia, is one with a very remarkable history. Its title was as follows: "Ways and Means for the Inhabitants of Delaware to become Rich: Wherein the several growths and products of these Countries are demonstrated to be a sufficient Fund for a flourishing Trade. Humbly submitted to the Legislative Authority of three Colonies. . . . Printed and sold by S. Keimer, in Philadelphia, MDCCXXV." I was anxious to see this book, or more properly speaking, tract of 65 pages, mainly for the reason that it contained a reference to a proposed scheme of marine insurance which I thought might have borne

some fruit : as probably it did. I found that the author of this tract was Francis Rawle. With this fact before me, I searched Watt, but found not a word, the same with Allibone, and this was the more remarkable, in that this latter work was itself published in Philadelphia, and there is a good deal about the Rawle family, descendants of the one wanted. I tried the British Museum, and in the Catalogue there, I found its title, but that was all : the tract itself was not to be met with. I consoled myself with the thought that in a few months I should be in the United States, and a visit to Philadelphia would of course accomplish all I wished. I searched the libraries there, but the result was disappointing ; finally in the Loganian Library I found it, *i.e.*, the entry in the catalogue : the tract itself could not be found. It was known indeed to be in the building, and was believed to be the only copy extant. My disappointment was great, but as there seemed to be no help for it, I made the best of my bad luck, and (mentally at least) consigned this tract to the box, to take its place in the list of those I never expected to see ! In this last proceeding I was premature. Quite a history has since been developed concerning this tract, as the correspondence I now proceed to read will show. [Mr. WALFORD then read his correspondence with Mr. William Brooke Rawle, of Philadelphia, concerning this book, which was found in the autumn of 1878, and privately reprinted : and continued].—I now place upon the table an elegant reprint of the tract which deserves attention, if for no other reason than that of exhibiting an act of generous regard on the part of a descendant of the original author. I trust that many other rare books and tracts may yet share a like practical resurrection. It is a feature of our age to love revivals of the past.

1. *Books I have seen.*—First I will instance a few in my own possession : “Two Godlie and profitable Sermons earnestly enveying against the Sins of this Land in generall, and in particular against the Sins of this City of London. Preached in the City of London by Thomas Hopkins, minister at Yeardley, in the Countie of Worcester.” [Then, by way of indicating the drift of the contents, several texts are given in the title-page.] “. . . At London, imprinted by Felix Kyngeston, and are to be sold under Saint Peter’s Church in Cornehill, 1615.” This publication created a great deal of attention at the time, perhaps more particularly in the light of the plague visitations then prevalent. “London’s Deliverance Predicted: In a short Discourse, shewing the causes of Plagues in general, and the probable time (God not contradicting the course of second causes) when this present Pest may abate, etc. By John Gadbury. London, 1665.” “A True and Faithful Account of the severall Informations exhibited to the Honorable Committee appointed by the Parliament to Inquire into the late dreadful Burning of the City of London. Together with other Information touching the Insolency of Popish Priests and Jesuites ; and the Increase of Popery, brought to the Honorable Committee appointed by the Parliament for that purpose. Printed in the year

1667." Pepys in his Diary, under date Sept. 14, 1667, says, "Here I saw a printed account of the examination taken touching the burning of the City of London, shewing the plot of the Papists therein; which it seems hath been ordered to be burnt by the hands of the common hangman in Westminster Palace." This is a copy which survived. "Usury at Six per cent., examined and found unjustly charged by Sir Tho. Culpepper, and F. C. with many crimes and oppressions, whereof 'tis altogether innocent. Wherein is shewed the necessity of retrenching our Luxury, and vain consumption of Foreign Commodities, imported by English Money; also the reducing the Wages of Servants, Labourers, and Workmen of all sorts, which raiseth the value of our manufactures 15 or 20 per cent. dearer than our neighbours do afford them, by reason of their cheaper wayes; wherein is likewise hinted some of the many mischiefs that will ensue upon retrenching Usury; humbly presented to the High Court of Parliament now sitting. By Thomas Manley, Gent. London, printed by Thomas Ratcliffe and Thomas Daniel, and are to be sold by Ambrose Isted, at the Golden Anchor, over against St. Dunstan's Church, in Fleet Street, MDCLXIX."

This tract, I have reason to believe, accomplished a good deal in the way of diverting the current of anti-usury legislation, and hence of advancing our commercial prosperity. The mere titles of the large number of tracts for and against usury would constitute a very curious collection.

"An Alarm to Europe: By a late prodigious Comet, seen Nov. and Dec. 1680. With a predictive Discourse, Together with some preceding and some succeeding Causes of its sad Effects to the East and North Eastern parts of the World, namely England, Scotland, Ireland, France, Spain, Holland, Germany, Italy, and many other places. By John Hill, Physitian and Astrologer." Then a diagram on title-page "the form of the Comet with its Blaze or Stream as it was seen Dec. the 24th, anno 1680. In the evening. London, printed by H. Brugie for William Thackery, at the Angel in Duck Lane." [1680.]

"The Sinner's Thundering Warning-piece. Being an Account of the great Damage done by the late Dreadful Thunder and Lightning, on the 16th of July last, both in City and Country; particularly at Tatnum-court, Islington, and several other places in and about the City of London, by beating down Chimnies, part 9 Houses, striking some dead, and others speechless, in a sad and deplorable manner; as also how one Mr. Woollar, of Ipswich in Suffolk, and six of his passengers was struck dead in his Wherry the same day by the Lightning, and many others dangerously scorch'd and burnt. The truth of which will be attested any day of the week by Ipswich Hoy-men at Bear-key near Billingsgate, or at the Pewter Platter in Bullingbrook's-rents, near Spittle Yard. To which is added a Sermon preach'd at Mr. Woollar's Funeral on the said occasion at St. Margaret's Church in Ipswich, by Mr. Wm. Elemy, Minister of the said Parish, his text being

Psalm 77. 17, 18, &c. Licensed according to order. London, printed by H. Hills, in Blackfryars, near the water-side."

I place these books on the table for inspection, and proceed to enumerate some others that I have seen, but which I cannot now turn to for making any more detailed reference. Mr. WALFORD then read a number of titles of curious and rare books, among which were, "Harington (Sir John), An Apologie, 1, Or Rather a Retractation; 2, Or Rather a Recantation; 3, Or Rather a Recapitulation; 4, Or Rather a Replication; 5, Or Rather an Examination; 6, Or Rather an Accusation; 7, Or Rather an Explication; 8, Or Rather an Exhortation; 9, Or Rather a Consideration; 10, Or Rather a Confirmation; 11, Or Rather all of them; 12, Or Rather none of them. 1596." "Stirry (Thos.) Rot among the Bishops, or a Terrible Tempest in the See of Canterbury set forth in Lively Emblems to please the Judicious Reader, 1640"; a satire against Archbishop Laud. "A certain Relation of a Hog-faced Gentlewoman, called Mistris Tannakin Skinker, who was born at Whirkham on the Rhyne. . . . 1640." "March of the Lion, or the Conclusion of the War between Dunce and the Dunces. . . . containing the progress of the Golden Savage from the Bedford Coffee House in search of new quarters. 1752."

2. *Books I have not seen*:—Among the books enumerated by Mr. WALFORD were, "Joyfull Newes out of the newe founde world, wherein is declared the rare and singular virtues of diverse and sundrie Herbes, Trees, Oyles, Plantes and Stones, by Doctor Monardus of Seville, Englished by Jhon Frampton, 1577." "Plattes (Gabriel), A Discovery of Subterraneall Treasure, viz., of all Manner of Mines and Minerals, from the Gold to the Coale, Art of Melting, Refining and Assaying of them, etc., 1639." "Griffin (Lewis), The Doctrine of the Asse, an account of their Principles and Practice, in whose behalf the complaint was written, that it may serve for advice to others; whereunto is added, . . . Balaam's Reply and the Author's Reply, 1661." "A Dialogue concerning Decency . . . 1751."

3. *Books I should like to see*:—Among the books mentioned by Mr. WALFORD were, "Avenar (Dr. John, Professor at Witeberge [*sic.*]), The Enemie of Securitie, or a Daily Exercise of Godlie Meditations, for the Profit of all Persons of Auncient State or Calling, translated by Thomas Rogers, 1583." "A Purge for Pluralities, shewing the Unlawfulness of Men to have Two Livings: or the Downe-fall of Double Benefices; being in the Clymaactericall and fatall yeare of the proud Prelates, but the year of Jubilee to all poor hunger-pinch'd Schollers, 1642." "Bland (J.), Essay in Praise of Woman, a Looking-glass for Ladies to see their Perfections in. . . . Edinburgh, 1767." "Cupid and Hymen, or a Voyage to Isle of Love and Matrimony, containing a diverting Account of their Inhabitants, with the Bachelor's Estimate of Expenses, and the Married Man's Answer to it, by John Single, of Gray's Inn, 1742."

4. *Books I never expect to see*:—Regarding these books I will be

vain enough or sanguine enough to hope that they may constitute a constantly decreasing number. Accident rather than design seems to help one respecting them: they turn up unexpectedly in the most unlikely places. While the number thus seems to be steadily decreasing, it is in fact rather rapidly increasing, in the sense that while we know nothing of the actual existence of a book, we are necessarily indifferent about seeing it; but, from the moment that we do get to know that it was once a veritable fact, we are put upon our mettle, and we do not readily abandon hope. One's literary acquaintance here come in of great service—not to beg or to borrow, but to cast about for us. We constitute them into a corps of skirmishers, to search for, verify, and, perchance, produce to our vision that which without them we should at least have a lessened chance of seeing. I have the good fortune to possess several such friends; they fall within the category of Burton's Book-hunter—they are mighty book-hunters. I name one as a sample—Mr. Samuel Timmins. In the trade they are legion. But, notwithstanding the aid of such friends, I own to a misgiving if I shall ever see the following, or any considerable proportion of them:—"Churcheyarde (Thos.), The Miserie of Flaunders, Calamitie of Fraunce, Misfortune of Portugall, Unquietness of Ireland, Troubles of Scotland, and the blessed state of England. 1579." "Fraunce (Abraham), The Lawyer's Logike, exemplifying the Præcepts of Logike by the Practise of the Common Lawe. 1588." "The Counter-Seuffle, whereunto is added the Counter-Rat, written by R. S. 1670." "The Miraculous Power of Clothes, and Dignity of the Taylors, being an Essay on the words 'Clothes make men.' Translated from the German. Philadelphia, Mentz, MDCCLXXII."—Mr. WALFORD then exhibited a number of curious titles from booksellers' catalogues, and concluded as follows:—"The foregoing falls very far short of what I had intended my paper to be, or perchance of what it might have been, if time and freedom from my tormentor (gout) had permitted. I trust it may prove sufficient as a text upon which to found a discussion anent special collections, of tracts more particularly. I had intended myself to found upon it some remarks upon the peculiarities of title-pages at different periods of our book history. This must, however, be preserved for another occasion, when time shall have permitted a more complete examination of the subject.

DISCUSSION.—Referring to the reprinted tract, Mr. WILSON said that a great many books of the kind were published in this country during the settlement of the American colonies, and that probably this work had appeared in England under a slightly different title.—Mr. WALFORD said that the entry in the Museum catalogue is of this book with the imprint, Philadelphia.—Prof. JEVONS then, in reference to title pages, said that there was a general character about contemporary titles, so that it was possible to get within fifty years of the publication of the work, from the style of the title-page.

—Dr. SELIGMANN said that in Germany, attention was paid to the character of the type and paper of undated works.—Mr. WILSON observed that there were some reprints in the last century which were difficult to distinguish, especially when the paper had been much exposed.—Mr. GARNETT mentioned a work by Bernardino Ochino in the British Museum Library, which was in such good condition, that it would appear to be much later than its true date. Books likely to get their possessors into trouble would be better taken care of.—Mr. STEVENS said that a few years ago it was found that the *Nuremberg Chronicle* was not “o. p.” and eight copies, unbound and uncut were sent to a London bookseller.—Prof. JEVONS thought that it would be well if the Association were to take up the matter of publication of books without a date, a practice which had extended to some important works, and would hereafter cause much trouble.—Mr. WILSON said that with earlier books, many dates could be ascertained from Mr. Arber’s transcript of the Stationers’ register, but at present such reference would be too laborious in most cases until the publication of the index.—Prof. JEVONS said that the question of rare tracts was a very interesting subject. Future generations would do much more with them than was done at present, and whole masses of literature would be reprinted, so that anything that tended to preserve even a single copy was important. A large proportion of the books entered in the Stationers’ register had already perished.—Mr. STEVENS said that many of them never appeared. Books were often entered some years before publication, and in some cases there had been a provisional entry of books which were never published at all.

A vote of thanks to Mr. WALFORD for his interesting paper, was then carried unanimously.

Among the donations laid on the table, was a copy of the Ronalds Library Catalogue of Works relating to electricity and magnetism, presented by Mr. A. J. FROST, the editor.

The discussion of the resolution as to Parish Registers, (see pp. 32 and 40.) was resumed, when the importance of the subject, and the necessity of some provision, for the better preservation of these ancient records were fully recognised, but fears were expressed that a difficulty would arise from opposition on the part of those at present interested in search fees, and the further consideration of the resolution was adjourned until the next meeting.

The library of the Corporation of London, at Guildhall, hitherto closed at 2 p.m. on Saturdays, is now open from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. every week day.

Le Livre for last month admits the necessity of fixing upon a new mode of indicating the size of books, now that paper is no longer made by hand on a mould which cannot exceed certain dimensions. But, allowing that all books above 30 centimètres may be regarded as folio, those of 25 as quarto, &c., it insists that there is no need to replace these familiar designations by capital letters likely to be mistaken for unintelligible contractions.

QUERY.

READING-ROOM TABLES.—Can anyone recommend an improved table for public reading-rooms, in which much writing is done, in place of the long flat-topped tables so generally in use, and which are apt to cause dyspepsia in a student who bends over them for any length of time? Reading-desks, to stand to, may or may not be advisable, but they are not always convenient. Of course it is a *desideratum* that they should not hide the readers from the superintendent of the room.—B. C. O.

NOTICES OF BOOKS AND LIBRARY REPORTS.

Dun Echt Observatory Publications. Classification Scheme, and Index to the same, of the Library of the Observatory; by Lord Lindsay. Dun Echt, 1879. La. 4to, 28 pp.

Lord Lindsay read a paper before the Association in May 1879, describing the classification, which embraces the departments of mathematics, astronomy, and physics. It is partially based upon Mr. Melvil Dewey's decimal system, with the classing extended to four figures of decimals. The index is very extensive, referring to about 1650 subject-headings.

A Bibliography of Printing, with Notes and Illustrations. Compiled by E. C. Bigmore and C. W. H. Wyman. London, B. Quaritch, 1880. Sm. 4to, pp. xii., 449. Vol. I. (A—L)

Messrs. Bigmore and Wyman are to be congratulated on the first instalment of their laborious and useful undertaking. The titles (though somewhat too brief) appear to be carefully drawn up, and the notes convey much interesting information in a readable manner. The printers' marks might have been increased in number, to the exclusion of some illustrations of a less special interest. The modern literature of printing is better represented than older books, and among the omissions is the important paper of Mr. W. H. Albutt on the spread of printing throughout England, published in the report of the Oxford meeting of the Association, pp. 101-3, 157-63.

The report of the Wednesbury Free Library, 1879, (Mr. A. Cotgreave, lib.) states that the revival of trade has tended to decrease the issue of books. "The decrease is principally in works of fiction, borrowed from the lending department, the issue of higher class literature from the reference department, having, on the contrary, been nearly double that of last year."

The report of the Plymouth Free Library, 1879, (Mr. W. H. K. Wright, lib.) contains a curious table of the ages of borrowers (not being burgesses), by which it appears that there were enrolled in 1879 no less than 429 under the age of 15, compared with 63 of 60 years and upwards.

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